

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00343 021649Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-06
ST-01 AID-05 IGA-02 AGR-05 /053 W
-----021652Z 036730 /40

R 011402Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5645
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0343

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

JOHANNESBURG FOR REGIONAL RESOURCES OFFICER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EWWT, EMIN, ETRN, SF, MZ
SUBJECT: MAPUTO PORT CONDITIONS DETERIORATE

SUMMARY: ACCORDING LOCAL SHIPPING AGENCY OFFICIAL, PORT
OF MAPUTO NOW EXPERIENCING SEVERE PROBLEMS. BOTH TIPLERS
AT MATOLA ORE FACILITY ARE BROKEN DOWN, DAMAGED CRANES
ARE NOT BEING REPAIRED, ALMOST ENTIRE LOCOMOTIVE PARK
ON SOUTHERN LINE IS DAMAGED, AND SHIPS ARE BEING LOADED
AT A RATE OF 300-400 TONS PER DAY. SHIPPERS ARE THREAT-
ENING TO STOP CALLING AT PORT. PORT AND RAIL AUTHORITY
REFUSES COOPERATE WITH LOCAL AGENCIES. END SUMMARY

1. IN CALL ON LOCAL SHIPPING AGENCY OFFICIAL, EMBOFF WAS
TOLD THAT PORT CONDITIONS IN MAPUTO ARE DETERIORATING
RAPIDLY. SHIPPING LINES ARE THREATENING TO STOP CALLING
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AT THE PORT UNLESS PROBLEMS ARE REMEDIED SHORTLY. PROBLEMS
INCLUDE BREAKDOWNS OF EQUIPMENT, LACK OF MAINTENANCE AND
REPAIRS, AND LACK OF COOPERATION FROM MOZAMBIQUE RAIL AND
PORT AUTHORITY (CFM).

2. AGENT STATED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS,
BOTH RAIL CAR TRIPLERS AT THE MATOLA ORE LOADING FACILITY

ARE BROKEN DOWN AND NOT OPERATING. ENTIRE ORE FACILITY IS DORMANT BECAUSE ALL FRONT END LOADERS WHICH ARE USED TO MOVE CHROME ARE BROKEN DOWN. REPAIRMEN MANAGED TO GET ONE LOADER WORKING APRIL 1.

3. LAST WEEKEN AGENT STATED, THERE WERE SEVEN OR EIGHT SHIPS WAITING TO LOAD AT MATOLA. SOME LEFT WITH NO CARGO, OTHERS, AFTER DAYS OF DELAY, WERE LOADED AT GENERAL CARGO DOCK IN MAPUTO.

4. AGENT SHOWED EMBOFF CFM DAILY PORT REPORT, WHICH SHOWED THAT PRODUCTIVITY OF PORT HAS FALLEN SUBSTANTIALLY. IN LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, AVERAGE RATE OF LOADING IN MAPUTO WAS 300-400 TONS PER DAY, AND AGENT SAID IT HAS BEEN LIKE THAT FOR SOME WEEKS.

5. AGENT THEN SHOWED EMBOFF A REPORT FROM HIS AGENCY TO COMPANY HEADQUARTERS IN JOHANNESBURG DISCUSSING MARCH 16 MEETING OF SHIPPING AGENTS AND CFM AUTHORITIES. ACCORDING REPORT, SHUNTING OF RAIL CARS CONTINUES TO BE MAJOR PROBLEM. CARS ARE "LOST" FOR SEVERAL DAYS, AND ARE NOT MOVED BECAUSE OF EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWN. ACCORDING REPORT, SOUTH AFRICAN RAILWAYS (SAR) HAS AGREED TO REPAIR 19 DAMAGED CFM LOCOMOTIVES. (COMMENT: THIS IS VIRTUALLY ENTIRE LOCOMOTIVE PARK ON MOZAMBIQUE'S SOUTHERN RAIL LINE.) SAR WILL ALSO LEND FOUR LOCOMOTIVES FOR USE IN MOZAMBIQUE. REPORT ALSO STATED THAT REPAIRS OF DAMAGED CRANES IN MAPUTO HAVE BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE OF LACK OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND LACK OF TECHNICIANS. REIORTPLOMMENTED THAT CONTRACTS FOR MAIN-CONFIDENTIAL

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TENANCE OF THESE CRANES WITH FOREIGN COMPANIES ARE IN EXISTENCE, THEREFORE AGENCIES HARD PRESSED TO UNDERSTAND WHY REPAIRS NOT BEING MADE. REPORT STATED THAT CFM IS TAKING A NON-COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE, AT TIMES DENYING THAT PROBLEMS EXIST, AT OTHERS FALSELY CLAIMING THAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN. AGENCT COMMENTED THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO CONTACT THE PROPER AUTHORITY IN CFM TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS, WHILE CFM IS BLAMING ALL PROBLEMS ON LOCAL AGENCIES.

6. AGENT COMMENTED THAT IF THINGS CONTINUE IN THIS MANNER (AND HE SEES NO SOLUTION), THE SHIPPING AGENCIES STILL OPERATING HERE WILL CLOSE, OR WILL HAVE TO CLOSE IF SHIPPING LINES MAKE GOOD THEIR THREAT NOT TO CALL AT MAPUTO.

7. COMMENT: OTHER SHIPPING AGENTS HAVE VOICED THE SAME FEARS, AND IN FACT, FLATLY PREDICT THAT NO PRIVATE SHIPPING COMPANIES WILL BE IN BUSINESS IN MAPUTO BY THE END OF 1977. THESE COMMENTS SEE TO BEAR OUT RECENT REPORTING BY SOUTH AFRICAN POSTS THAT SAG AUTHORITIES (WITH GOOD REASON)

ARE WORREID ABOUT CONDITIONS IN MAPUTO, AND ARE DE-EMPHASIZ-
ING USE OF THIS PORT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT FACILITIES, WORKING CONDITIONS, STEAMSHIP LINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MAPUTO00343
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770114-1127
Format: TEL
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770498/aaaadhst.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3a7807ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2927750
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAPUTO PORT CONDITIONS DETERIORATE SUMMARY: ACCORDING LOCAL SHIPPING AGENCY OFFICIAL, PORT OF MAPUTO NOW EXPERIENCING SEVERE PROBLEMS. BOTH T
TAGS: EWWT, EMIN, ETRN, SF, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3a7807ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009